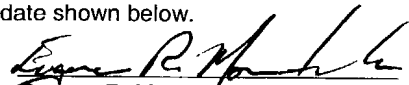




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PATENT
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on or before the date shown below.


Eugene R. Montalvo

Date: 31 MAR 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
RONALD MARSHALL BASS, BYRON LEE NEWBERRY } CARL GOTLOB LANGER
ROMULO GONZALEZ and FRANS S. W. SMITS }

Serial No. ~~09/779,758~~

09/910696

Group Art Unit: 3672

Filed ~~February 8, 2001~~ July 20, 2001

Examiner

March 31, 2004

~~A DEEPWATER DRILL STRING SHUT-OFF~~
~~ANNULUS FOR ELECTRICALLY HEATED~~
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
PIPE-IN-PIPE SUBSEA PIPELINE

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 15 MARCH 2004

Dear Sir:

Attorney for Applicants in the above captioned application hereby responds to the Office Action mailed 15 March 2004. At the time the Office Action issued, claims 1 – 32 were pending. The Office Action allowed claims 1, 6 – 7, 30 and 31. Claims 2 – 5, 29 and 32 were objected to. Claim 28 was rejected.